

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**ELLEN C. JAFFEE**

**Legislator - District 12**

Vice-Chair, Budget & Finance Committee  
Vice-Chair, Multi-Services Committee  
Vice-Chair, Special Committee on Transportation  
Vice-Chair, Special Committee on Location & Siting  
of Power Plants in the Tonne Valley  
Chair, Health & Human Services Subcommittee  
Co-Chair, Special Committee on R.C. Women's Issues

Co-Chair, Arts, Culture & Tourism Subcommittee  
Member, Special Committee on Open Space,  
Environmental Preservation, Groundwater Purity  
& Utility Regulations  
Liaison, Rockland Community College  
Liaison, Youth Bureau  
Liaison, Cooperative Extension

January 6, 2003

Mr. Karl Gleaves  
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Svcs.  
National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration  
United States Department of Commerce  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Gleaves:

As members of the Rockland County Legislature, we hereby enter into record our strong opposition to the Millennium Pipeline route alternatives relating to Rockland County, as being proposed by the New York Department of State (DOS).

The Rockland County portion of the Millennium Pipeline, to be utilized by Columbia Gas, was constructed in 2001 by Mirant Energy, and is currently in service supplying gas to the Bowline Energy Facility. The pipeline was placed along existing utility corridors to minimize the impact to residents.

As you are aware, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission certified this proposal route after four years of intensive environmental study. The United States Department of Environmental Protection Agency, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, have determined that the certificated crossing of the Hudson River at Haverstraw Bay is acceptable.

In our opinion, the route alternatives, as recommended by the Department of State, will have significant and adverse effects on the natural and human environment. The following impacts will occur:

## Option #1 – Palisades – Dobbs Ferry Route

This NY DOS preferred option would include locating the pipeline in the wooded buffer parallel to the Palisades Interstate Parkway (PIP), originating in the Village of Pomona, for approximately 10 miles, crossing Tallman State Park and entering the Piermont Marsh.

**Impact to the Palisades Interstate Parkway:**

- ✓ The Palisades Interstate Parkway is designated a National Historic Landmark and a scenic byway by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The environmental impact to the PIP would be devastating and change, forever, the scenic beauty of this parkway.
- ✓ The removal of the wooded buffer along the 10-mile portion of the PIP will directly effect the quality of life for several hundred residents, whose properties border the Parkway. The wooded buffer serves as an essential noise, visual, and air pollution abatement barrier to the heavily traveled road.
- ✓ Construction activities adjacent to the PIP will directly impact thousands of motorists who commute on this heavily populated roadway.
- ✓ Heavy equipment necessary for construction of the Pipeline would significantly damage the newly constructed roadway and drainage systems.

**Impact to Tallman Mountain State Park and Piermont Marsh:**

- ✓ Tallman Mountain State Park will be significantly impacted due to the removal of thousands of mature trees, construction on steep slopes, and crossing of small streams.
- ✓ A number of plants in the Park and Marsh are listed as rare, endangered, or of special concern.
- ✓ The Park is listed on the State Register of Historic Places.
- ✓ The Piermont Marsh has been designated a Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat under the New York State Coastal Management Program. The same designation as Haverstraw Bay.
- ✓ In 1985 the Village of Piermont designated the Marsh as a Critical Environmental Area, pursuant to NYS Environmental Conservation Law (ECL Article 8).
- ✓ The Park and Marsh are listed in the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- ✓ The Park and Marsh are Included in the Tappan Zee Scenic District (ECL Article 49).

Mr. Karl Gleaves  
January 6, 2003  
Page 3 of 6

- ✓ A number of plant and animal species found in the marsh are Federally classified as rare, endangered, or of special concern.
- ✓ The Park and Marsh are State-owned lands within the Piermont Marsh Reserve, and are under the jurisdiction of three state agencies.
- ✓ The "lay-barge" technique proposed for Haverstraw Bay may not be usable at this location. This could cause significant environmental disruption to Piermont Marsh and the Hudson River.
- ✓ Significant blasting and excavating would occur in the State Park.

**Other Options – The Palisades/CSX Railroad/Route 117 Alternative:**

These pipeline options would be constructed along the PIP or the CSX railroad corridor crossing the Hudson River at Hook Mountain State Park.

- ✓ The impact to the PIP and CSX would be the same as listed in alternative "Option 1."
- ✓ The pipeline would be placed along Route 303, and residents bordering these highways effecting hundreds of residents and businesses.
- ✓ Significant safety issues would arise from the placement of the pipeline along this route.
- ✓ The pipeline would have to be constructed along steep slopes and mountainous terrain.
- ✓ Hook Mountain State Park and Rockland Lake State Park, both listed as National Historic Landmarks, would be adversely effected by construction of the pipeline.
- ✓ The rock outcroppings along the Hook Mountain Bike Trail would be removed.
- ✓ Significant blasting and excavating would occur in these two State Parks.

In conclusion, we believe that the alternative routes suggested by the NYS Department of State will have a permanent negative impact on Rockland County, and the quality of life of Rockland County residents.

Please be aware, for the reasons noted above, that the County Legislature will join the County Executive in taking whatever measures necessary to oppose these alternatives.

Mr. Karl Gleaves  
January 6, 2003  
Page 4 of 6

Sincerely,



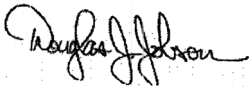
ELLEN C. JAFFEE  
Legislator – District 12

Sincerely,



ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER  
Legislator – District 4

Sincerely,



DOUGLAS J. JOBSON  
Legislator - District 1

Sincerely,



SALVATORE CORALLO  
Legislator – District 2

Sincerely,



ROMAN RODRIGUEZ  
Legislator – District 3

Sincerely,



KENNETH P. ZEBROWSKI  
Legislator – District 5

Mr. Karl Gleaves  
January 6, 2003  
Page 5 of 6

Sincerely,



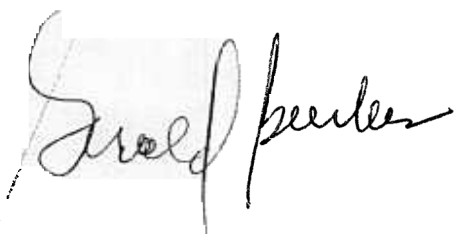
ROBERT M. BERLINER  
Legislator – District 6

Sincerely,



WILLIAM L. DARDEN  
Legislator – District 8

Sincerely,



GEROLD M. BIERKER  
Legislator – District 9

Sincerely,




HARRIET D. CORNELL  
Legislator – District 10

Sincerely,



THEODORE R. DUSANENKO  
Legislator – District 11

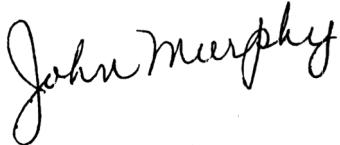
Sincerely,



VJ PRADHAN  
Legislator – District 14

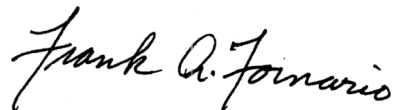
Mr. Karl Gleaves  
January 6, 2003  
Page 6 of 6

Sincerely yours,



JOHN A. MURPHY  
Legislator – District 16

Sincerely yours,



FRANK A. FORNARIO  
Legislator – District 17

CC: Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef, County Executive  
Town of Orangetown, Town of Clarkstown, Town of Ramapo:  
Supervisors  
Town Council Members  
Village Mayors and Trustees  
Environmental Management Council  
R. Allan Beers  
Diane Gruskin  
Suffern Civic Association  
Ms. Sarah Mondale, Suffern Civic Association  
28 Hillside Ave., Suffern, NY 10901

ECJ/la